



Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Liberian Cities: Implications for Social Welfare Systems

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Abstract

Urbanization in Liberian cities has led to significant changes in settlement patterns, with informal settlements emerging as a prominent feature. The research employs qualitative and quantitative methods, including case studies in three Liberian cities, structured interviews with stakeholders, and analysis of government records to assess service coverage and gaps within informal settlements. Urbanization has resulted in a significant increase (35%) in the population living in informal settlements compared to formal areas, highlighting the need for tailored social welfare policies that address the specific needs of these communities. Informal settlements pose unique challenges for social welfare systems but also offer opportunities for innovative solutions and targeted interventions that can improve service delivery efficiency and effectiveness. Policy recommendations include developing comprehensive urban planning strategies, enhancing community engagement in service provision, and implementing technology-driven monitoring tools to track progress and impact. Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Welfare Systems, Liberia

Keywords: *Geographic, Urbanization, Informal Settlements, Social Policy, Development Studies*

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